

Message Text

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LAB-04 OFA-01 OES-05 DLOS-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 AID-05 DIWY-01 CU-04 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 /112 W

----- 044305

R 241832Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8309

INFO USUN NEW YORK 352

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 3786

E O 11652 NA

TAGS EAID, UNDP, CO

SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVAL OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF STATE 64907

1. THE FOL COMMENTS ARE LETTERED TO CORRESPOND TO THE PARA IN
THE TEL UNDER REF:

A. THE UNDP HAS BEEN LENDING TECH ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELDS OF
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE,
HEALTH, EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS,
MINERALS, PUBLIC ADMIN, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. LAST YEAR A
GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT AND RESOURCES WAS ASSIGNED TO THE MINERAL
RESOURCES SECTOR WITH INGEOMINAS AS THE COUNTERPART AGENCY,
TO THE EDUCATION SECTOR WITH ICFES AND ICOLPE AS IMPORTANT COUNTER-
PARTS, AND TO SOME EXTENT TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT SECTORS.

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ACCORDING TO UNDP OFFICIALS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW HOST GOVT HAS NOT BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE, DUE TO A VERY DISORGANIZED NATIONAL PLANNING DEPT WITH NO DEFINITE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND LACK OF COUNTERPART.

B. UNDP ACTS AS THE MAIN COORDINATING AGENCY OF ALL EXTERNAL TECH ASSISTANCE. ANNUALLY THE UN GATHERS ALL PERTINENT INFOIN A REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THAT INCLUDES ALL DONORS AND ACTUAL PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE DIFFERENT SECTORS. THIS DOCUMENT IS THE ONLY EXISTING COMPILATON OF TA RENDERED AND IS DISTRIBUTED AMONG ALL MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AGENCIES.

THE ACTUAL COORDINATION AND CONTACTS AMONG TA DONORS IS DONE ON A PROJECT BASIS, I.E., EACH TIME AN ACTIVITY IS GOING TO AKE PLACE, UN CONSULTANTS AND OFFICIALS MEET WITH ALL OTHER DONORS WHO ARE WORKING IN THE SAME FIELD, SO AS TO AVOID DUPLICATE EFFORTS AND TO COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER'S WORK. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS HAS BEEN THE UN INLAND FISHERIES PROJECT WHICH WILL COORDINATE ALL TECH ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AID FISH LOAN TO E SIGNED IN THE NEXT FY.

C. THE UN RESIDENT REP DOES NOT HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT INPUT N OTHER FIELDS OUTSIDE THE USUAL REALM OF TECH ASSISTANCE. SUCH ACTIVITIES AS DISASTE RRELIEF, REFUGEES, ETC, ARE HANDLED DIRECTLY BY OTHER UN AGENCIES WHICH SPECIALIZE IN SUCH MATTERS.

D. RECENT REVIEW OF THE UN COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS LED TO A CHANGE IN THE GENERAL SCOPE OF THE TYPES AND COST OF PROJECTS WHICH ARE GOING TO BE FINANCED IN THE FUTURE, AS WELL AS THE SYSTEM OF APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS. FUTURE ACTIVITIES WILL TEND TO CONCENTRATE IN FEWER AREAS WITH LARGER AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE AND BETTER CONTROL OF IMPLEMENTATION. APPROVAL PROCEDURES HAVE ALSO BEEN CHANGED SO THAT EVALUATED REQUESTS ONLY HAVE TO BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE IN NEW YORK, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OVERALL GOALS AND SCOPE OF WORK, WHILE THE ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNING OF ASSISTANCE IS ALL DONE IN THE COUNTRY WITH NO FURTHER APPROVAL BY HQS.

THIS SYSTEM HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE UN TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY
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AND EFFICIENTLY TO GOVT NEEDS. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE CASE OF COLOMBIA'S FAMILY WELFARE INSTITUTE, WHICH REQUESTED UN ASSIS- TANCE IN JAN OF THIS YEAR AND WAS AWARDED A GRANT OF US\$' TO 8 MILLION THREE MONTHS LATER. THE COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW HAS ALSO LED TO THE IDEA OF CONVERTING THE SYSTEM TO A CONTINUOUS OVER PROGRAMMING EXERCISE INSTEAD OF HAVING AN INFLEXIBLE 4 YEAR PROGRAM, WHICH CANNOT ADAPT ITSELF EFFECTIVELY TO HOST GOVT NEEDS.

E. PROPOSED PROJECTS TOTALLING US\$12 MILLION WILL THUS NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR 1976 PROGRAMMING BUT WILL START THIS YEAR. THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILY WELFARE INSTITUTE AS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL NUTRITION PLAN. THIS PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO BUILD THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE INSTITUTE, AND SUPPORT ITS ACTION IN THE RURAL SECTOR AND IN THE SOCIAL REHABILITATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN. A COMPLEMENTARY PROJECT WILL ALSO BE SIGNED SOON FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BIENESTARINA (NUTRIENT FLOUR) PLANT WITH A COST OF US\$3 MILLION.

IN AGRICULTURE, A SHORT TERM IMPACT PROGRAM HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO EXTEND THE ACTUAL INLAND FISHERIES PROJECT TO THE FIELDS OF AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FISH MARKETING. FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN REGIONAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION PLANNING WILL BE RENDERED TO ANOTHER ENTITY WHICH WILL ALSO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE GENERAL PLANNING CAPACITY OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, INCLUDING A RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECT, IMPROVEMENT OF STATISTICS, AND FISHING PROGRAMMING. TRAINING THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE MAINTAINED IN THE FORM OF SHORT TERM IN COUNTRY COURSES INSTEAD OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS.

A FORESTRY RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC COAST TO FIND NEW SPECIES OF RAPID GROWTH, AND A COAL PREFEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE DEPTS OF MAGDALENA, BOLIVAR, AND CESAR WITH AN EXPORT EMPHASIS, ARE TWO OF THE MOST PROMISING PROJECTS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ONE MILLION DOLLARS WILL ALSO BE ASSIGNED TO A PUBLIC ADMIN PROJECT TO COMPLETE THE LIST OF NEW ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.

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PRS-01 USIA-15 /112 W

----- 044524

R 241832Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8310
INFO USUN NEW YORK 353
USMISSION GENEVA
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E O 11652 NA
TAG S EAID UNDP CO
SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVAL OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

F. BOTH UN AND GOC OFFICIALS AGREE THAT UNPROJECTS HAVE NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY COULD HAVE BEEN, BECAUSE OF THE VAST AREAS COVERED AND THE LITTLE DEPTH IN WHICH THEY WORK. SEVERAL EVALS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR HAVE SHOWN PROJECTS WITH LOW IMPACT, AS A RESULT OF DIFFICULTIES AND RECRUITMENT OF PER, UNESCO/UN RELATIONSHIPS, AND OTHER POLIT REASONS. ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ELIMINATE MOST OF THE PROJECTS NOW UNDER WAY IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BIGGER PROJECTS, SUCH AS THOSE CARRIED OUT IN THE MINING AREA, HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE COUNTRY'S POLICY DECISIONS AND A IN GENERAL TERMS HAVE IMPLEMENTED WELL THE ORIGINAL PURPOSES AND GOALS. FOR THREE ZHARS THE UN MISSION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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INGEOMINAS HAS BEEN WORKING IN GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION. THEY HAVE WORKED IN SEVERAL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY IN THE SEARCH FOR BASE METALS, NICKEL, AND GOLD. THEY HAVE SET UP A VERY COMPLETE AND USEFUL LAB IN WHICH THEY CARRY OUT NECESSARY EXPERIMENTS. SOMYCMINOR PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE OF LACK OF COUNTERPART FUNDS BUT THEY HAVE BEEN SOLVED. THE UN MISSION HAS WORKED IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE USGS MISSION FINANCED WITH AID LOAN FUNDS. THE INLAND FISHERIES PROJECT HAS ALSO HAD SOME DEGREE OF SUCCESS AND WILL BE EXTENDED WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLEMENT WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.

G. A GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR EVAL OF PROJECTS IS FOLLOWED FOR ALL PROJECTS TWICE A YEAR. ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE OF THE EVAL MEETINGS THE PROJECT DIRECTOR AND HIS COUNTERPART PRESENT THE NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICE WITH AN IMPLEMENTATION AND EVAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. THE REPORT IS RETURNED TO THE COUNTERPART AGENCY PRIOR TO A FORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE ARISEN.

MEETINGS ARE HELD WITH MEMBERS OF THE UNDP, THE PLANNING OFFICE AND THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY. EXTERNAL EVAL MISSIONS HAVE ALSO VISITED PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT NEED REORIENTATION BECAUSE OF THEIR FAILURE TO MEET INITIAL OBJECTIVES (E.G. EDUCATION PROJECTS) OR THOSE WHICH LEND THEMSELVES TO EXTENSION SUCH AS THE MINERAL RESOURCES AND FISH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THESE EVALS ARE DONE WITH THE CONSENT AND COOPERATION OF BOTH THE PLANNING OFFICE AND THE COLOMBIAN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES.

H. IN GENERAL TERMS, NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE EITHER IN THE SENSE OF INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS OR INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN UN PROJECTS. NEVERTHELESS, INDIRECTLY SOME SOCIAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE ONE RECENTLY SIGNED WITH THE FAMILY WELFARE INSTITUTE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT IMPACT ON WOMEN, AND THE INSTITUTE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS CHAIRED BY THE PRES'S WIFE. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CERP 0008, PROGRAM ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA03786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-0071
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750418/aaaaaqlp.tel
Line Count: 238
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 64907
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0008 - EVAL OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, CO, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006